Application No: 10/820,827
Attorney's Docket No: ALC 3126

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 10, and 19 are independent. Claims 1, 10, and 19 are amended.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

In section 3 on pages 2-5, the Office Action rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,850,388 to Anderson et al. (hereinafter "Anderson"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 1 recites "identifying a highlighted object O(n-1) managed by said primary object at a hierarchically next lower level (n-1), wherein the highlighted object is selected from the group consisting of a network node, a network link, a shelf, a slot, a card, and a port." Independent claims 10 and 19 contain similar recitations. This subject matter finds support in, for example, paragraph [0022] of the published version of this application.

As described in the present specification, network managers utilize a management interface to check the status of nodes, links, and other elements in the network. See, e.g., paragraph [0006]-[0007]. Because the network is composed of many layers, this is often a cumbersome process, requiring numerous clicks and a significant amount of time. Id. The subject matter recited in claims 1, 10, and 19 relates to an improved method and system allowing a network operator to efficiently navigate through the network map. By selecting an object such as a node or link, an operator can view each node, link, shelf, slot, card, and port managed by the

- 7 -

selected object, resulting in a significant decrease in the time spent navigating the hierarchy. See, e.g., paragraph [0014], [0022].

Applicant respectfully submits that Anderson fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter recited in independent claims 1, 10, and 19. In contrast to the recited subject matter, the interface disclosed in Anderson relates to displaying protocol distribution information. In particular, the interface of Anderson merely displays the protocols in use in a given ISO protocol layer. See col. 29, ln. 17-30. For example, the interface shown in Figure 20 of Anderson indicates that the Ethernet and IEEE 802.3 protocols are currently in use, not the network nodes, network links, shelves, slots, cards, and ports managed by a selected object.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Anderson fails to disclose, teach, or suggest "identifying a highlighted object $O(n\text{-}1)$ managed by said primary object at a hierarchically next lower level $(n\text{-}1)$, wherein the highlighted object is selected from the group consisting of a network node, a network link, a shelf, a slot, a card, and a port," as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in claims 10 and 19.

Claims 2-9 depend from allowable claim 1, claims 11-18 depend from allowable claim 10, and claim 20 depends from allowable claim 19. Accordingly, claims 2-9, 11-18, and 20 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies.

For at least the forgoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

While we believe that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney in order to expeditiously resolve. any outstanding issues.

In the event that the fees submitted prove to be insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.

Date: ___June 23, 2008___

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